

From: John Eure
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 10:20pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please reject the proposed settlement in favor of one that will actually prevent Microsoft from continuing to illegally exploit its monopoly. At a minimum, this should require them to offer all of their desktop programs (Office, for example) for MacOS and Linux (the only other significant desktop OSes), and to offer all of their server programs (IIS, for example) for Linux, Solaris, and several other varieties of UNIX (the only other major server OSes). By requiring them to provide applications support to their major OS competitors, you will prevent them from leveraging their OS monopoly into a number of applications monopolies, as seems to have already happened with word processing, where MS Word is the default standard. (By the way, all this could also be accomplished by braking the company up into OS, applications/hardware, and networking divisions.)

I urge you not to cave in to Microsoft's continuing whining. The US economy cannot afford to support the dead weight of a monopoly for any longer. Competition equals a healthy free market, and a monopoly provides neither. If Microsoft's punishment is inadequate, I fear that its straglehold on the stagnating US tech market will drag our economy into a deep and long-lasting depression.

Thanks,
John Eure
(a US citizen, registered voter, and computer scientist)
(who was using Hotmail before Microsoft absorbed it)

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